

REMARKS

The rejections and objections raised by the Examiner are addressed separately below. In view of the claim cancellations and amendments noted above, Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the pending claims in this patent application.

The Examiner stated that claims 4-6, 8, 12, -15 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 31 into independent form containing all the limitations, including base claim limitations, of the original dependent claims. Claims 5 and 14 as previously presented now meet the Examiner's requirements, because the base claims on which they depend have been rewritten as separately allowable independent claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 31 have been amended herein. Claims 1-3, 7, 9-11 and 16-30 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as filed. No new matter has been added.

§102 REJECTIONS

Claims 2 and 29-30 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,446,286 to Bhargava. While not agreeing that those claims are anticipated, to facilitate prosecution, Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims. Thus, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

OBJECTIONS

Claims 4-6, 8, 12-15 and 31 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 31 have been amended to rewrite the claims as independent claims containing all the limitations, including base claim limitations, of the original dependent claims. Claims 5 and 14 as previously presented now meet the Examiner's requirements, because the base claims on which they depend have been rewritten as separately allowable independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims 4-6, 8, 12-15 and 31 have been placed into condition for allowance, and respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

SUMMARY

Having addressed each issue raised by the Examiner, pending claims 4-6, 8, 12-15 and 31 as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time is included herewith. Please charge the petition fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055. If any additional extension of time is required in this or any subsequent response, please consider this to be a petition for the appropriate extension and a request to charge the additional petition fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to the same Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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